

Fletcher's Farming

STATE RIGHTS

FARMING MUST PAY OR THE NATION WILL PERISH - Geo. B. Terrell.

FLETCHER DAVIS,
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Burdensome Taxation

BY S. Y. FERGUSON

No tax plan ever used or suggested has, or could add one cent to the value of our material possessions or our welfare. Taxes, even those necessary for the irreducible expenses of government, are a nuisance and a penalty on every honest man, business or industry, and in no case produce value of any kind. While taxes support an army of men and women, some honest, efficient and earning their wage, but many more are merely leeches on the public body, and that render small or no service for the money they take from the public funds. No political necromancer's magic formula can make taxes anything but a nuisance, a penalty and a handicap on honest men and business. Creating nothing, adding nothing to the wealth of the individual or of the commonwealth; and all the manifold tax plans and schemes for getting more taxes, getting them easier and with less pain, making everybody prosperous, rich and happy is the demagogue's campaign song, all fakerisms to confuse and impress the unintelligent. Common sense should teach all who can think sensibly, that subtraction from can not add to the sum of our possessions or our welfare. All such plans are only the schemes for changing the ownership of money or property, and largely without just compensation to those who are compelled by tax laws to hand it over. Lest we in our haze and confusion over the manifold tax plans now being put forward to make everybody prosperous, rich and happy, all without pain at the extracting table, or long waiting in the convalescence ward, should become unduly hopeful at the prospects of useful addition by the method of painless subtraction, we had best take a level look and with doubting eyes and minds at the subject matter of all optimistic clatter, of improving conditions by taxes and by spending. Nor forget that no intelligent man or people ever place an optimist in charge of their private business, their money or their public affairs. All taxes, salaries and wages are eventually paid by the consumer and by decreased returns on investments. The most important man of all, in all times has been the paymaster, for when he quits all quit; politicians, teachers, preachers, clerks, labor, together with all the cult of the uplift, each and all cease their usual functions when the paymaster lies down on the job. This being unquestionably so, why shall we not be more critical and harder to please in the quality of our public employees?

Every collapsed boom, every depression from too much debt has been caused by optimism run wild under the delusion of wisdom and progress by pretentious claims not backed up by facts; not anchored to common sense or ballasted by the

conservatism of the pessimistic. Great industries and financial institutions should not be destroyed, by taxes or by regimentation, even where they have become the instruments of oppression, but should be shorn of their power to oppress, and their political influence so defined and regulated that they will be the useful instruments of industry and trade, instead of the heartless oppressors of the people.

In Europe today there is much lightning with the thunders of sophism against truth, but the people there are still able to think independently, and thus intelligently, hear only the sound of the hammers nailing shut the coffins of liberty and truth. If we continue to sleep on our personal rights, permitting the distribution and propagation of fallacious theories of government and society and of getting rich by taxing our neighbors, to go unchallenged and unchecked, our fortunes will soon be as uncertain as is theirs. Only by eternal armed vigilance will we be able to hold against taxes and selfish designs of political demagogues, or to maintain the public rights promised us by the charter of our liberties. Our campaign cry should be, "Common Sense, Truth, Justice and the Constitution!"

It can not now be said that the taxpayer is the forgotten man. No man able to pay taxes will be forgotten.
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Purile Prejudice

BY G. R. CLEMENTS

In Fletcher's Farming appeared a clear and concise definition of the Profit System, as follows, to wit:

"In a leading editorial in a paper of wide circulation and vast influence among its readers, we find this preposterous statement: 'A profit is something taken for which no equivalent is returned.' That is to say, every human endeavor that prospers is a robbery scheme; for no endeavor can prosper that does not bring rewards over and above cost of operation; and to take from another without an equivalent return in value, is to rob the other. The profits one earns in his enterprise are his wages for a service rendered (by his brains, brawn and wealth), and without his wages he cannot long render that service. Inability to earn profits bankrupts business, renders the business man unable to pay wages to labor, and puts both employer and employee on the dole."

By the wise use of his brains, brawn and wealth, a man establishes a business institution, and it succeeds because it renders a particular service to the public.

But this man is not entitled to any profits, according to the arguments of those who condemn the Profit System. He should donate the use of his brains, brawn and wealth to the benefit of the public good, but from which he has received nothing, unless it be hatred and ridicule, and the profits that arise from the wise use of his brains, brawn and wealth,

he should donate to the workers of his business, whom he has paid wages on a par with those paid by other institutions for similar work.

Under this arrangement of those who condemn the Profit System, there would be a gradual deterioration of the brains of the Nation for the lack of any incentive to inspire them to any worth-while effort, and the geniuses of the country would in time degenerate to the mental plane of the workers, who have the mental capacity of a child of twelve, and are unable to think beyond the limits of wage slavery.

In the June, 1938, number of a little paper called "Humanity", appears the following:

"Do you know the difference between Production for USE and Production for PROFIT? Every day when you pass the store-rooms of merchants, you see many articles you need. Why do you not purchase? You cannot purchase because the goods were produced under the Profit System and must be sold at profit. Therefore, the PROFITEER stands over his goods and will not allow you to touch them until you have paid him his ransom demanded in the name of 'business'—and which is one-third to three-fourths more than the cost of producing the goods. That is 'business' under the profit system. That is why you do not purchase—that is why you remain in need. And THAT is why millions are hungry and ragged and homeless and hopeless in America."

Nothing clear and concise appears in the foregoing remarks. It is a rambling statement against the profit System, dictated by Prejudice and inspired by hatred of those who use their brains, brawn and wealth for the benefit of the public good.

The editor of Humanity seems to believe that the man of genius who uses his brains and brawn to perfect a project, and his wealth and skill to carry it out, which work employs thousands of toilers, should go unrewarded for what he does, and give the profits of his brains, brawn and wealth to the workers, who "ARE TOO IGNORANT AND TOO WEAK (mentally) TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN LABOR AND REPRODUCE." says the editor of Humanity.

We would hate to live under any system where the man of genius and the bum of the highways are placed on the same plane or level. There would then appear a gradual deterioration of mentality, and instead of having two classes, composed of (1) brain and (2) brawn, we would have but one, composed of those who "ARE TOO IGNORANT AND TOO WEAK (mentally) TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN LABOR AND REPRODUCE."

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Voices Approval

Fletcher's Farming:

Gentlemen: I am sending herewith, by mail, a cordial handshake in recognition of the high merit of the article in the July 1 issue of your paper under the heading "Help or Control—Which?" by Fred W. Davis.

It is one of the most comprehensive discussions of that monumental blunder of modern times, the suicidal A.A.A. and its reincarnation, the S. C., that I have seen in so short a treatise.

In this brief discussion, the author says as much as the writer has stammeringly said in a long series of letters, and he says it better. This industry killer first christened The Bankhead Law—a twin brother to a Bonehead Law—has revealed and developed more of the baser characteristics of man than might have been believed to exist in a latent state.

As the author pointed out, it revealed a total lack of sympathy on the part of officials on a salary, and the recipients of unjust favors, for their victimized neighbors. The check blinded them to the suffering of the outlawed class.

Those who had contributed nothing to a surplus were penalized. If they, through misfortune, had suffered crop shortage during the years prior to 1933, that misfortune was made permanent and redress from Mr. Wallace or any departmental subordinate was impossible, as if we sent a man to the penitentiary for having rheumatism and paid the bank robber for his activities.

It even caused the sows in the county in which I resided to average 14 pigs to the litter for reduction purposes.

The effect on the farmer might be explained by holding a silver dollar at a distance where it will obscure only a small spot to the eye. Then gradually bring the dollar to the eye and when it is very near the eye all else but the dollar will be hidden. This may have been the desired reaction while the shackles were being bradded.

But thanks for the article.
Prosperity is the child of freedom.

Appreciatively yours,
E. G. FRANCIS,
Mineral Wells, Tex.